



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



FALLEN HERO BRIDGE DEDICATIONS



This week the South Dakota HWY 12 Bridge over the Missouri River was dedicated to Army PVT Bruce Ruby. Ruby, of Ipswich, was killed in action in France on November 9, 1944.

South Dakota will dedicate four more bridges this year:
 Sept 11— Air Force Combat Veteran 1LT Herbert Lyman and Army Com-

bat Veteran Tech Sergeant James Lyman—Thunder Hawk—10:00 am (MT),
 Oct 8—CPT Elmer Rusch—Brookings—11:00 am (CT),
 Oct 11—SGT William Christensen— Parkston—1:00 pm, (CT), and
 Nov 11—SSG Gregory Wagner—Hanson High School—Alexandria—1:00 pm (CT).

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HWY 73 TO BE DEDICATED TO LYMAN BROTHERS

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will host a State Bridge Dedication Ceremony to honor Air Force Combat Veteran 1LT Herbert Lyman and Army Combat Veteran Tech Sergeant James Lyman.

The ceremony will be Saturday, September 11, 2021, at 10:00 am (MT) at the Smith-Lyman Post 279 (on Main Street) in Thunder Hawk.

The South Dakota HWY 73 Bridge near Thunder Hawk will be dedicated to both Lyman brothers who served in World War II.

Herbert, a P-51 mustang pilot, was shot down over France on a dive-bombing mission. His plane sustained damage from enemy antiaircraft fire and left formation. He was reported killed in action June 17, 1944.

James was killed by an enemy grenade and gunshot wounds from enemy small arms fire in Italy while leading a charge on machine gun positions March 16, 1945.

Naming bridges in honor of our combat veterans who died while serving their country is an initiative of Governor Kristi Noem and the South Dakota Departments of Military, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs.

"Whenever and wherever this nation has called, in times of darkness and danger, as well as in times of peace and prosperity, veterans have been there and have proudly carried the torch of liberty for all to see," said Greg Whitlock, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Our fallen heroes are no longer with us, but their memories live on in the hearts of their loved ones and our state," said Whitlock. "Naming our South Dakota bridges in honor of our fallen will give us an opportunity of remembrance, reflection, and respect — for honoring the men and women who gave their lives in service to this nation. They cherished liberty and loved freedom enough to lay down their lives to preserve our way of life."

POW/MIA DISPLAY DEDICATION CEREMONY RESCHEDULE

SDDVA has received word that the POW/MIA Display dedication ceremony at the State Capitol has been moved to Monday, January 10, at 2:00 pm (CT). The ceremony will be held on the second floor of the west wing of the Capitol.

RESIDENTS AT STATE VETERANS HOME ENJOY PATRIOTIC VIEW

Residents at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home had the opportunity this weekend to enjoy the beautiful view of patriotic hot air balloons.

This display is part of the 6th annual Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival.

Click here to learn more about the festival

<https://www.fallriverballoonfest.com/>



SEPTEMBER IS SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Suicide is a preventable public health problem and Governor Kristi Noem wants anyone who is struggling to find the help and resources they need. That is why she has proclaimed September as Suicide Prevention Month in South Dakota.

“Talking about suicide isn’t always easy or comfortable, but it definitely is a conversation that is needed,” said Department of Social Services Secretary Laurie Gill. “We want to encourage South Dakotans to talk about suicide, whether they are contemplating it, know someone in crisis or are concerned about it in their community. Starting a conversation about suicide can help save a life.”

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in South Dakota but is the leading cause among those ages 10 to 19, according to data from the Department of Health. The suicide rate among South Dakota’s Native American population was 2.5 times higher than among the white population in the 2011-2020 period.

“Suicide is a preventable public health problem, and we can all play a part in keeping suicide from happening in South Dakota,” said Department of Health Secretary, Kim Malsam-Rysdon. “By talking about suicide and the complex risk factors that lead to it, we can help destigmatize seeking help.”

South Dakotans are encouraged to learn five simple action steps can help prevent suicide:

1. Ask the question – It’s ok to ask, “Are you thinking about suicide?”
2. Be there – Be there physically or by phone.
3. Keep them safe – Take steps to separate the person from the situation or anything they could use to hurt themselves.
4. Help them connect – Contact family, friends, teachers, coaches, church members or anyone who can help including the Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800.273.8255.
5. Follow up – Check in on a regular basis to show you care and have a plan in place if you can’t reach them.

“Preventing suicide is up to each of us – starting a conversation about suicide in your community, school, family, social circle, team, workplace or on social media can help save a life,” said Department of Tribal Relations Secretary, Dave Flute.

If you need help with thoughts of suicide, please call 1.800.273.8255 or send a text to 741741. Help is available 24/7. Or, visit SDSuicidePrevention.org or BeThe1SD.com for numerous resources for those in need of help for themselves or others.

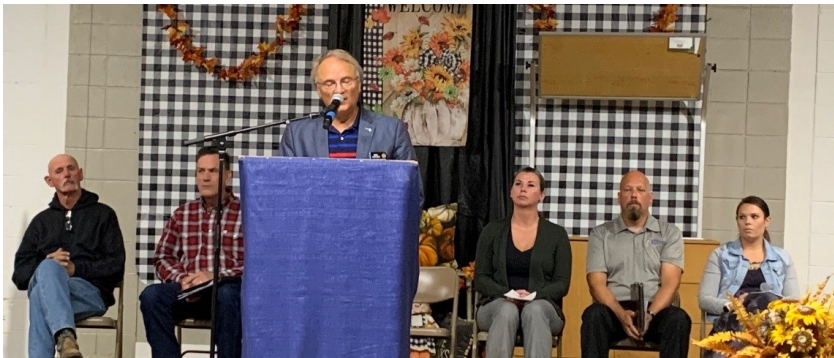
South Dakota Suicide Prevention is a partnership seeking to end suicide in South Dakota. Partners include the Department of Social Services, Department of Health, Department of Tribal Relations, Department of Education, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Great Plains Tribal Leader’s Health Board. For more information and to read the South Dakota Suicide Prevention state plan, please visit sdsuicideprevention.org.

VETERANS HONORED AT SD STATE FAIR

Last night's Red Wilk Construction Tuff Hedeman Bull Bash kicked off the South Dakota State Fair! A pioneer in the sport of standalone bull riding, four time World Champion and Pro Rodeo Hall of Famer Tuff Hedeman has been producing these heart racing bull riding events for eighteen years, giving the fans what they want every time - great rides and high scores.

The Red Wilk Construction American Hero Award honoring ceremony was held during the Bull Bash and honored veterans from all eras. SDDVA's Secretary Whitlock and Special Projects Coordinator Guy Arnold were on hand to assist with the recognition.

Beadle County VSO Taylor Jans (second from the right on the lower right picture), was



one of the veterans recognized.

SDDVA Secretary Greg Whitlock was the keynote speaker today during the Veterans Salute program. SDDVA's team will be at the State Fair all week in the Veterans Building on Midway Flag Avenue.



114TH FIGHTER WING NAMED MOST OUTSTANDING FLYING UNIT IN AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing received recognition as the top flying wing in the nation and was presented the Spaatz Trophy at the 2021 National Guard Association of the United States annual conference in Las Vegas, Aug. 30.

The Spaatz Trophy is presented to the most outstanding flying unit in the Air National Guard each year. This is the fifth time the 114th Fighter Wing has won the prestigious award. The 114th has consistently been recognized as one of the top Air National Guard wings in the nation and received a national award from NGAUS every year since 2014.

"We are extremely proud of the men and women of the 114th Fighter Wing," said Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette, SDNG adjutant general. "Time and time again, they have demonstrated their professionalism and ability to accomplish the mission. No other fighter wing in the Air National Guard has been recognized more times than the 114th Fighter Wing for their outstanding service."

Selection for the Spaatz Trophy is based on overall combat readiness and the unit's performance with respect to all other Air National Guard flying units. Factors included in the evaluation are mission execution,

safety and accident prevention, aircraft maintenance scheduling and effectiveness, unit manning and retention, resource utilization, inspection ratings, outstanding accomplishments, and exercise involvement.

During the past year, the 114th Fighter Wing deployed over 400 Airmen to 19 countries providing forces to support stateside and global operations. The 114th also supported civil authorities by providing personnel for the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, augmenting law enforcement agencies, and continuing its commitment to NORAD's Aerospace Control Alert mission assuring 24/7 homeland defense.





Attention ALL Veterans... EXTRA CASH

We have the Immediate need for Temporary Security Guards for Events in the Sioux Falls area.

Date	Times
September 8 th	Wednesday - 15:45 to 23:00
September 12 th	Sunday - 17:15 to 21:00
September 13 th thru the 19 th	- Day & Overnight Shifts
September 17 th	Friday – TBA
September 18 th	Saturday 17:15 to 21:00



Also, September 10th, 11th, 17th, 18th, 24th, 30th as Gate Guards for Local Sporting Events.

SMP Security Services (Formally Sioux Merchant Patrol) has been serving the Sioux Falls area since 1950. We have Temporary, Part Time and Full Time Positions available. We employ many veterans and will work around your schedule and availability.

Contact – Lt. Mac McNamara if interested at 605-334-9357

Lt. McNamara is a Disabled Gulf War Veteran and past commander of the VFW Post 4726 and American Legion Post 318.

HERO APPRECIATION GAME



OCT. 9, 2021 | 1 PM







BHSU FOOTBALL GAME

ATTENTION HEROES



BHSU Athletics would like to invite all Veterans, Active Military Personnel, Law Enforcement, Firefighters, and EMS Personnel to the "Hero Appreciation Game" as the Yellow Jacket football team hosts Colorado School of Mines at 1 PM on October 9th, at Lyle Hare Stadium in Spearfish. All Veterans, Active Military, Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters, and EMS personnel will receive (2) free tickets to the game when you arrive at the stadium. Just let the ticket staff know your status.

Persons with disabilities requesting accommodations for these events or for more information contact Colleen Mischke (605-642-6269, Colleen.Mischke@BHSU.edu) or Brock Anundson (605-642-6882, Brock.Anundson@BHSU.edu).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sep 3—POW/MIA Chair Dedication—Crazy Horse Memorial (112151 Avenue of the Chiefs)—1:00 pm (MT)
- Sep 4—727th/DAV Annual Poker Run—Swiftel Center (824 32nd Avenue)—Brookings
- Sep 6—State Offices Closed
- Sep 10—VABHHCS Veterans Stand Down—The Monument's Rushmore (Halls C & D)—444 Mt. Rushmore Road—Rapid City—1:00 pm—5:00 pm (MT)
- Sep 10—VABHHCS We Remember 9/11 20th Commemoration—The Monument's Rushmore (Halls C & D)—444 Mt. Rushmore Road—Rapid City—5:00 pm (MT)
- Sep 10—VABHHCS Veterans Recovery Concert—The Monument's Rushmore (Halls C & D)—444 Mt. Rushmore Road—Rapid City—6:30 pm (MT)
- Sep 11—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—1LT Herbert Lyman and T/SGT James Lyman—Thunder Hawk American Legion Post—Thunder Hawk—10:00 am (MT)
- Sep 11—Patriot Day Celebration—420 Villa Drive—Box Elder—2:30 pm (MT)
- Sep 18—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 7
- Sep 18—Midwest Honor Flight Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—9:15 pm (CT)
Doors Open at 7:30 pm (CT)
- Sep 22-23—DAV and Auxiliary 14th District Fall Conference—DAV Headquarters—1519 W. 51st Street—Sioux Falls
- Sep 24—Veterans Stand Down—SD Military Heritage Alliance (1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—9:00 am—noon (CT)
- Sep 30—Folds of Honor Legacy Golf Tournament—Red Rock Golf Course—Rapid City

U.S. Department
of Veterans AffairsSEPTEMBER IS
SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTHREACH
OUT

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Oct 8—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—CPT Elmer Rusch—Brookings—11:00 am (CT)
 Oct 9—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 8
 Oct 9—Midwest Honor Flight Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—8:45 pm (CT)
 Doors Open at 7:00 pm (CT)
 Oct 9—BHSU Hero Appreciation Game—Lyle Hare Stadium—Spearfish—1:00 pm (MT)
 Oct 11—State Office Closed
 Oct 11—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—SGT William Christensen—American Legion Post 194 (221 W. Main Street)—Parkston—1:00 pm (CT)
 Oct 20—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—SD Military Heritage Alliance Building (1600 W. Russell)—Sioux Falls—9:00 am (CT)
 Oct 23—Midwest Honor Flight Hangar Dance at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance (1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls
 Nov 11—State Offices Closed
 Nov 11—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—SSG Gregory Wagner—Hanson High School (600 Juniper Street)—Alexandria—1:00 pm (CT)
 Nov 13—Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair—Sturgis Community Center (1401 Lazelle Street)—12:00—3:00 pm (MT)
 Nov 25-26—State Offices Closed
 Dec 7—Governor's Budget Address
 Dec 18—Wreaths Across America—South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—11:00 am (CT)
 Dec 24—State Offices Closed
 Dec 31—State Offices Closed

2022

Jan 10—POW/MIA Chair of Honor Dedication—State Capitol—2:00 pm (CT)
 Jan 11—Governor's State of the State Address
 Jun 12—Midwest Honor Flight Annual Honor Ride
 Jul 18-23—National Veterans Golden Age Games—Sioux Falls



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